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Letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on West Timor issued on 7 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on West Timor issued on 7 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns with the utmost resolve the aggression perpetrated against a team from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 6 September in West Timor which resulted in the tragic deaths of three of its staff. It deplores the current state of insecurity in West Timor which is also affecting the security of East Timor and is forcing the United Nations to interrupt humanitarian aid to the refugees and take steps to withdraw international staff and part of the local staff.

The European Union urgently demands that the Indonesian authorities apprehend and try the perpetrators of this aggression, put an end to the destablizing activities of the militias and guarantee the safety of the refugees as well as that of the humanitarian and international staff in West Timor so that the latter can rapidly resume their activities.

The European Union would recall the urgent need for a settlement at the earliest opportunity of the question of the refugees currently in West Timor.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.